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MISCELLANY.

We are indebted to a correspondent for the subjoined copy of a bill and decree,
prepared by Judge D. W. Bolen, Hillsville, Va. :

BILL.

To

Hon. R. C. Jackson, Judge in chancery and law
Of Carroll's high court, where litigants go
For redress of all wrongs and release from hard fates,
Where justice abounds nor mercy abates;
Your orator comes to the equity side
To get some relief from a troublesome bride.

He wedded a girl pursuant to promise,
Whose name before wedding was Kateurah C. Thomas.
For a time said Kateurah called orator lord,
And slept in his bed, and ate at his board;
But ere long said Kateurah, in all her sweet charms,
Left orator's bed for adulterous arms.
The aforesaid Kateurah her virtue hath sold
And liveth in shame with libertines bold.
His marriage vows orator hath faithfully kept,
And oft for Kateurah hath bitterly wept,
But the sin of Kateurah he hath not condoned
And the faithless Kateurah from his heart is dethroned.
This marriage was done as the statutes demand,
And inside the bounds of Carroll's dear land,
And here they abode in wedlock's embrace
Till Kateurah began her sin and disgrace;
And here they are still, complainant alone,
With no mate to share his bed and his home,
While truant Kateurah, a furlong away,
Debauches by night and revels by day.
And here to the court would orator show,
While the mystical bonds of marriage did glow,
With rapturous love and amorous fire,
And Kateurah was true to his heart's own desire,
An angel came down from the heavens above,
And left in her arms a pledge of their love—
A being which, trained to virtue and right,
Fit companion might be for the children of light,
But left in the way of vice's broad road,
A soul there is lost to virtue and good:

This child of the marriage, John Isaac by name,
By the mother is kept in the home of her shame.

The old common law, standing square on its base,
No remedy gives for orator's case,
And so he comes here, where equity is rife,
And prays a divorce from his dissolute wife.
May Kateurah C. Keith a party be made
And answer this bill in all that is said,
But to answer on oath expressly he waives,
And divorce from Kateurah devoutly he craves;
May your honor restore to orator's care
The fruit of his loins which Kateurah did bear;
May your honor grant orator general relief,
Whose name, please the court, is Hamilton Keith;
The Commonwealth writ of gracious old *Spa*.
May your orator have, and he ever will pray.

HAMILTON KEITH,
By counsel.

DECREE.

Keith
versus
Keith. } On the equity side.

Comes now on this day in its turn to be tried
On a writ that is sound and served in due time,
On a bill that's sufficient and sounding in rhyme,
The cause set for hearing as the statute provides,
The evidence taken and filed and, besides,
Complainant's attorney did argue the cause
And show to the court the facts and the laws;
On consideration whereof, all the things aforesaid
And the charge of adultery in the bill that is made,
The court is convinced said charge is too true,
And the bonds of the marriage now proceeds to undo:
It is therefore ordered, adjudged and decreed,
To be entered of record for all men to read,
That the marriage contracted, as shown in the bill,
By the parties hereto is henceforth declared *nil*,
And is canceled, annulled and declared of no force,
And complainant from Kateurah is granted divorce.
John Isaac, the child, from the breast being weaned,
To the father is restored as the law hath ordained;
And now, poor Kateurah, should she ever again
Pure wedlock desire and cease from her sin,
She is freed from the marriage bonds heretofore had,
And marriage may enter with any free lad.
No other relief being prayed for or asked,
This cause from the docket from henceforth is cast.